December/January
2002-03

Volume 39
Number 6

Non-Profit US Postage Paid
Permit No. 14794
San Francisco, CA

New Bernal Journal

515 CORTLAND AVE - SAN FRANCISCO - CALIFORNIA - 94110
SERVING THE BERNAL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD OF SAN FRANCISCO SINCE 1964

15,000 Residents Celebrate the Spirit of Bernal at Fiesta on the Hill

By Leslie Lombre

This past October 20th, Bernal Heights' neighbors, guests and visitors packed 10 blocks of Cortland Avenue throughout the day-long fundraiser and benefit for the BHNC - making the event the most successful ever in the 14+ year history of Bernal's neighborhood street celebrations. Two stages of continuous music and performing artists entertained the crowds at both ends of Cortland, while activities, artisans, vendors, local non-profit organizations and the Fiesta Food Court drew participants to every block of the fair.

Fiesta on the Hill is the biggest annual fundraiser for the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. Over 200 volunteers stage and produce this annual event that enables the Neighborhood Center to continue its work as a key service provider of youth programs, a senior center and affordable housing development and rehabilitation. Support from the Annual Street Fair also goes towards the publication of the bimonthly New Bernal Journal and the annual Neighborhood Congress where neighbors prioritize an agenda of community concerns and issues for residents.

The BHNC would like to thank those volunteers, participants and fair-goers for their generous presence at Fiesta. Some of you, including our generous sponsors are listed inside. To those of you we've unknowingly omitted, please accept our gratitude. Because of you, we can continue offering our neighborhood the many BHNC programs and services.

Home Depot Environmental Impact Report Due Soon

By Ron Morgan

As of press time Bernal residents are still waiting for the publication of the Draft Environmental Impact Review (DEIR) on Home Depot's proposed development for a megastore on Bayshore Boulevard at Cortland. The retail giant has appeared to be dragging its feet in the environmental review process, mandated in February by the Planning Commission. Some watchdogs of the city planning process warn that this apparent stalling tactic may trigger state laws that would automatically grant Home Depot its permit regardless of any findings in the DEIR.

One component of the DEIR, the Final Traffic Report, by Wilbur Smith Associates, has been available to the public since September. Store traffic data provided by Home Depot optimistically predicts that 24% of cars traveling to the proposed development will come from communities south of San Francisco that will use US 101 as a primary route. If this data is correct, Home Depot will be seriously cannibalizing its Colma store's customer base*. If it is not, then the projected traffic will instead come from surrounding San Francisco neighborhoods, over surface streets, further clogging predicted critical intersections.

Bleak Traffic Predictions

Even with unrealistic data minimizing cross-town auto trips to the proposed development, the traffic report paints a grim picture for the future of Bernal, with traffic from Bayshore using our tiny side streets as secondary routs to avoid F Level of Service gridlock at both ends of Cortland. The Report notes that many of the future traffic problems facing Bernal Heights as a result of the proposed development cannot be mitigated. In other words, there are no traffic lane or signal adjustments, no traffic calming elements or other standard mitigations to keep the proposed development's traffic from overwhelming our streets.

The No Home Depot Committee, together with the BHNC and Arc Ecology, continues to monitor the progress of the Home Depot DEIR, and is preparing to provide analysis and recommendations to the community and the Planning Commission, which must vote to accept or reject the findings of the Review. No Home Depot Committee chair Barbara Kyle remains stalwart in her opposition to Home Depot's proposed development. "Bernal neighbors must stand together now to insure that Home Depot doesn't steamroll our community", says Kyle. "Once the DEIR is published, the process moves to the Planning Commission, where our voices must be strong to be heard."

Next Steps

The No Home Depot Committee is currently planning a mobilization effort leading up to an anticipated late-January hearing at the Planning Commission. The Committee is also continuing a fundraising drive to help pay for the services of Arc Ecology. To make a tax deductible donate to the No Depot Fund, send your check or money order: No Home Depot, 515 Cortland Ave., SF, CA, 94110 (please make out your check to the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center with a notation that your gift is intended for the No Depot Fund). For more information, call Ron Morgan at **206-2140 X 155** or email **rmorgan@bhnc.org.**

Predatory Practices Are Catching Up with Home Depot

Home Depot's practice of market saturation and cannibalization of customers from its old stores to its new stores led to a 5% decline in earnings per store for the year 2002, and then to its stock being devalued from "Preferred" to "Hold". Many market analysts have wondered recently in the press how long Home Depot can continue its policy of predatory growth before it grabs its own tail and starts devouring itself. One possible symptom of overreaching is deterioration of customer service. In September of this year, Home Depot was kicked off the member's list of the Better Business Bureau because of performance problems relating to customer complaints nationwide.

The New Bernal Journal

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Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center
Member, SF Neighborhood Newspaper Association
editor reserves the right to edit submissions for clarity and space

The New Bernal Journal is a neighborhood newspaper sponsored by the **Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center.** It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with their community's news, ideas, issues and events which support the center mission:

To preserve and enhance the ethnic, cultural and economic diversity and well-being of the Bernal Heights community. We work to build a strong community for all, with a focus on the needs of low and moderate-income people. We do this by providing services to support and increase opportunities for seniors, *youth and others most at-risk;* by preserving and expanding access to affordable housing; and by building the neighborhood's power and capacity to achieve these goals. We commit to being a provider of essential services, a builder of community, and a force for organizing neighborhood change.

The New Bernal Journal is distributed door-to-door free to the community of Bernal Heights.

Articles express the views of the contributors and are not necessarily those of *The New Bernal Journal* or the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center

For advertising information and rates, please contact: (415) 206-2140 ext. 148

Printed by Howard Quinn Co.
298 Alabama Street
San Francisco, CA

Submissions for the February/March issue of the NBJ are due by 2/15/03. Please make all computer disk submissions in PC format, or email them to: nbjeditor@hotmail.com

A Holiday Greeting to our Neighbors

Dear Neighbor:

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a safe and joyous holiday season. As is usual with of year-end festivities, we end our 2002 year of providing services and building community with our annual holiday celebrations, co-sponsored by the Walter & Elsie Hass Fund and California Department of Justice.

On Wednesday, December 18, we will host our annual toy giveaway and holiday party. This event is being co-sponsored by the Building Bernal Schools committee and the Mayors Youth Employment and Education Program. We will be distributing toys and allowing our neighborhood children to participate in arts and crafts activities from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. The toy giveaway is for school age children between the ages of 5 and 14 years old. If you would like to participate and/or donate a toy(s), please drop it off by Monday, December 16th. You can also drop off toys at participating merchants. Please look for the sign on window. We can also use help with refreshments and baked goods. The planning meeting for neighbors to help out is scheduled for Monday, December 9th at 6:00 PM at the Neighborhood Center. Please see the ad in this edition of the NBJ.

On December 19, we will host our first toy giveaway at the Greater Mission Consortium youth center at 4468 Mission St. at Excelsior. This event is for our Excelsior children & family clients. If you would like to help out please let me know.

On December 20, we will be hosting our annual senior luncheon for our seniors who participate in our senior activities. BHNC staff and volunteers will be cooking up a feast and serving the seniors on that day. We also distribute gifts provided from the senior giving tree in the BHNC lobby. If you would like to help out please let us know. This is a great opportunity to let a senior on your block know about our services and celebrate with them the holiday spirit.

In regards to our local Merchants Associations, I wanted to congratulate Mike Boss and Kingmond Young, the current co-chairs of the Cortland Merchants for a job well done, and congratulate David Ayoob and Mike Grafton for organizing the 11/30 and 12/7 tree well replanting. The wells look great, just in time for the holidays. I also wanted to thank long time South of Army Mission Merchants president David Gallagher and loyal assistant Alice Gonzales for the many years of service and leadership. Congratulations are due to Dawn Houston of El Rio, Nancy Keane of the 3300 Club, and David Gallagher, Gallagher Realty, for taking on the presidency, secretary, and treasurer positions. Best of luck. The board and staff of the BHNC look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. A final congratulation to Frank Xu of the Jasmine Tea House who had the opportunity last week to meet and feed former President Clinton twice while he was in San Francisco. Who says Bernal doesn't have some of the best San Francisco restaurants.

Things have started to move forward in the effort to create a neighborhood-based plan for the future development along Mission Street (Chavez to Randall) with staff going out and meeting with city departments, local neighborhood groups and individuals. If you would like more information and/or would like to get involved please contact Joseph Smooke at 206-2140 ext.157.

Thanks to all Bernal residents who worked and/or voted for Proposition B on the Novermber 5 ballot. Proposition B was the 250 million dollar local affordable housing bond. Although Prop. B received 56% citywide, it received 68% in District 9 which includes Bernal Heights. Proposition B needed 66% citywide to pass. Thanks for your on-going support to house folks most in need.

In closing, we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary of building community and providing services in 2003. We thank many of you for your long-term support of the Center and hope it will continue in the future. We are putting together a 25th anniversary celebration organizing committee. If you would like to be involved and help raise some funds at the same time, please attend our first meeting on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM. If you can't make the meeting but want to be involved let me know and I'll plug you into the process.

In closing, I wanted to say thank you for all you do to make Bernal one of the best places to live in San Francisco. Whether you contribute through the BHNC, a neighborhood group, or just as an individual, you do make a difference and many folks in Bernal appreciate your contributions. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Neighborhood Center, have a great Holiday Season and Happy New Year.

If you have any comments, concerns, and/or questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 206-2140 ext. 121.

Sincerely,

Mauricio E. Vela
BHNC Executive Director

The New Bernal Journal Needs You!

The New Bernal Journal is published bi-monthly and is distributed to your door by a dedicated corps of volunteer neighbors. Last issue, we published an incorrect list of gaps in our distribution, and a lot of our volunteers contacted us wondering if we were trying to replace them, or fire them. Not so! Please accept out apologies, and know that we are extremely grateful for all the energy and effort from all who contribute and distribute the NBJ.

But we do still need more volunteers. If you live on, or near, the streets listed to the right, and want to distribute the New Bernal Journal on your block, give us a call at 206-2140 X 155 or email us at rmorgan@bhnc.org.

Coleridge
Lundys Lane
Prospect,
Gates (between Bernal Heights Boulevard and Crescent)
Prentiss (between Cortland and Crescent)
Nevada
Nebraska
Putnam

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Cortland Merchants Now Online and On Track

By Mike Grafton, Cortland Merchant

The Cortland Merchants recently completed the first steps in becoming dynamically interactive with the Bernal Heights community. At the largest booth at the Fiesta on the Hill, the CMA announced the creation of a website **www.bernalheightsonline.com**, presented a large graphic display of our current projects, and conducted a community survey to help guide the CMA in defining community goals.

At the website you can access the minutes of our monthly meetings, review the proposed agenda of our upcoming meetings, as well as complete our neighborhood survey. There is also a bulleting board feature welcoming your general comments.

The CMA greatly appreciates the over 380 people who took the time to respond to our community survey. Although the survey results will take some time to completely evaluate, some brief generalizations and some anecdotal specifics are already available, Listing what they most like about Cortland Avenue, respondents definitely endorse the small town "village in a small city" atmosphere, and appreciate that the merchants are mostly community involved, owner-operated businesses. Cortland Ave. is viewed as friendly, dog-friendly, kid-friendly, culturally and economically diverse, with a variety of convenient services oriented businesses. Not surprisingly, for those who know him, David Ayoob of 4 Star Video is clearly the area's most popular merchant! The dislikes most mentioned included: chain stores (in general); shabby, unkempt, and poorly maintained exteriors; litter; dirty sidewalks; double parking; and the remaining unused storefronts. The businesses most would like to see in the empty storefronts include: a bakery; a deli; an American grill; a pharmacy; a post office; a second hand clothing store; and more restaurants.

Our community is clearly concerned about the traffic flow increases that will result from the proposed Home Depot development at the base of the hill on Bayshore Boulevard and do not want Cortland to become the thoroughfare and driveway to their massive parking garage. The increasing competition for our parking spaces is another hot topic. Other suggestions we received included having the coffee shops, restaurants, video and grocery stores open later in the evening; having one evening a week of late shopping in general; and more community based events on the street, like Fiesta on the Hill and Halloween.

We also received strong endorsements for our tree well project, the holiday wreaths, involvement in the traffic calming effort and our community involvement in general.

In our meeting on November 12, in response to the community feedback, we allocated the funds for the materials to complete the tree well improvements by early December, and also funded the placement of white holiday lights in may of the storefronts. Unfortunately, it will be next year before we can coordinate the city's pruning of the trees and their illumination with white lights also.

We would like to thank the Bernal Heights community for your support of our member businesses and our community projects, encourage participation in the Cortland Merchants Association by all member of the business community (even if you're running a small business from your home), and invite your to keep in touch with us either in person, or through our new website.

Additionally, you are always welcome to attend our open meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month (unless Monday is a holiday) at Progressive Grounds Café (Cortland and Bennington) at 6:30 PM. Our next meeting is on December 10th. Please consider registering as a volunteer for any of our projects that are of special interest to you. Thank you again for your help. And please, curb your dog! ✪

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South Bernal Living Library and Think Park

By Eugenie Marek

Life Frames, Inc., a non-profit organization founded and led by Bernal resident and artist Bonnie Ora Sherk, is working with our local community to develop a unique South Bernal Heights Living Library and Think Park. We are learning about the ecological and multicultural resources of our community - past and present - with the idea of using this rich and colorful information and history to make relevant and beautiful environmental changes in our landscape. Some of these resources include old farms that were in the area and our connection as part of the Islais Creek Watershed. The South Bernal Heights Living Library & Think Park Program is based at the Junipero Serra Child Development Center where new gardens are already being developed, and a Conceptual Master Planning Program has begun, funded by the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

The idea is to bring all ages together to research, plan, and later implement transformational environmental opportunities for this community. Some of the community resources that have been invited to participate include: The Junipero Serra CDC, Junipero Serra Elementary School, Holly Park, the College Hill Reservoir, Holly Court Apartments, the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Seniors, the Cortland Merchants Association, and others. An OMI/Excelsior Living Library and Think Tank is already underway, linking and transforming the San Miguel Child Development Center, James Denman Middle School, and Balboa High School, which are also part of the Islais Creek Watershed. The project intends to link the OMI/Excelsior site with the South Bernal Heights site with state-of-the-art communications technologies.

A South Bernal Heights Living Library Steering Committee is forming now, and invites your participation and creative ideas. The next meetings will take place at the Junipero Serra CDC at 155 Appleton St. on December 11 and January 14, from 4 to 6 PM. For more information on A Living Library check **www.alivinglibrary.org**, call **206-9710** or 920-5138, or email **bonnieora@alivinglibrary.org** ✪

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Bernal Happenings

Longtime Bernal Bookstore is Closing its Doors

By Rachel Pepper

Bernal Books will be closing in January of 2003. Thank you to all our regular customers for eight wonderful years here on Cortland Avenue.

Why am I closing? Firstly, after many years in the book business I feel ready to persue other ambitions. And I am also ready to earn more money than I can selling books here on our sleepy little Hill. This is a very expensive city to be a small business owner in, and the profit margin on books, despite their seemingly high cost, is very low.

I have always taken the responsibility of being an ethical, caring local businesswoman very seriously. Those who have shopped in Bernal Books know this to be true.

Every book on the shelves has always been personally handselected, and we have been told many times that our selection was excellent. I have always been particularly proud of our great children's section, a unique blend of popular items like Harry Potter mixed with all the hard-to-find non-sexist, multi-racial, and girl-positive kids books folks would come in here specifically to find.

Besides the obvious task of selecting high quality merchandise for children and adults, I have provided a free bi-monthly children's story hour with Sophie, given out thousands of dollars in donations for schools and local organizations, hosted hundreds of free events and readings here including many by local residents, lent the space to all sorts of community writing groups, led a successful campaign to put a pedestrian crosswalk and stop sign at my very busy intersection, kept this corner clean of dog poop and other debris, and helped keep panhandlers off Cortland Ave.

Unfortunately, as the economy began to tank, and the book business increasingly has come under attack from on-line retailers and chain stores, our little store has suffered in the post 9-11 world. Folks are spending less, and at the same time that our profits were diminishing, we were also beginning to suffer from gentrification harrassment and anextensive, debilitating shoplifting problem. Add this to all the other everyday stresses of being a businessowner in this extremely expensive city, and I began to realize it was time for me to move on. Since my lease is up and various cirumstances beyond my control made my business impossible to sell, I am choosing to close up shop rather than renew my lease.

Thanks to everyone who made Bernal Books a success for eight wonderful years. We will be open through the holidays and will have a big party and closing sale sometime in January. See you soon!

Love,
Rachel

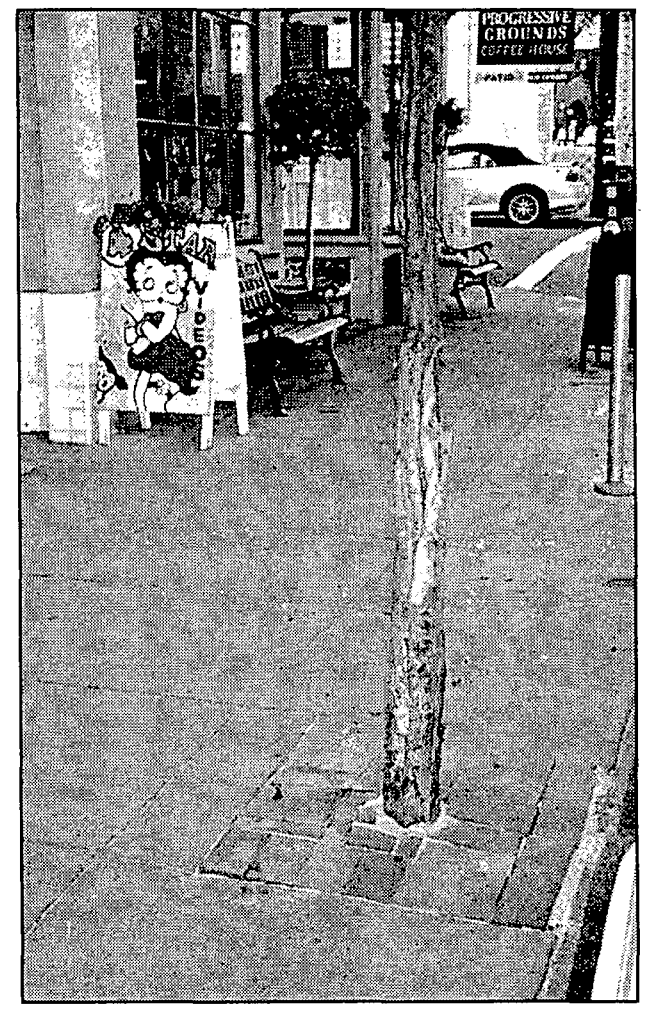
Award Winner

Thirty year Bernal Heights resident, native San Franciscan, Psychologist and author, Lawrence Wonderling, has received a Best Book Award by the Bay Area Independent Publishers Association.

This historical, psychological and human-interest non-fiction book is entitled SAN FRANCISCO TENDERLOIN, Heroes, Demons, Angels and Other True Stories.

Cortland Sidewalks Get a Facelift

The Cortland Merchant Association spearheaded a neighborhood beautification project on Cortland Avenue on November 30th and December 7th, digging and cleaning up the tree wells between Bocana and Folsom and replacing the garbage with bricks.



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Bernal Elementary School Page

Building Bernal Schools Update

Meet the Bernal Principals on December 10th!

By Amy Risch

The school year is well underway now and a steadily growing group of volunteers are working on Building Bernal Schools. Our first Feed The Teachers teacher appreciation dinner for the year was held at Junipero Serra on October 28th, and attracted a good turnout from both Serra and Flynn Elementary Schools. Many thanks to the volunteers who provided the food and drink! Later in the year, we'll be hosting 2 more Feed The Teachers events--one at each school. Teachers from all three schools are invited to each event; there was some good networking among the teachers from Flynn and Serra at our first one.

Thanks also to the great volunteers who worked our table at Fiesta on the Hill. They had a good time and we got some new eager volunteers from their efforts. The volunteers have quickly been put to work on our next event - Meet The Principals, Tuesday, December 10th, 7 PM at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center. This is a school information session with the principals from all three Bernal Elementary Schools.

Thank you also to the community members who have donated bookcases, computer equipment and books in response to the articles in the last edition of the NBJ. The schools still have strong needs for art and school supplies, books, and sports equipment. If you have any to donate, please let us know!

We have plans in the works for outdoor work at Flynn and Revere and lots of need for help inside each of the 3 schools. If you're interested in helping our schools, please contact us. Call Amy at **648-4019** or Ron at **206-2140 x155**. By e-mail we're reachable at **amy@muleteam.com** or **rmorgan@bhnc.org.**

Great Things Are Happening At Our Local Schools

Paul Revere

On November 14th, Paul Revere Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association and Kindergarten Team hosted an International Potluck Feast. It was a celebration of singing, feasting and socializing.

Community agencies set up booths to answer questions and share information. International Rescue Committee, Healthy Families; Edgewood Circle of Care; Homeless Prenatal Program; Youth Credit Union Program; Domestic Violence Liaison for the Greenbook Project at Department of Human Services were all represented. Jesse Tallo, representing the District English Language Advisory Committee was also in attendance.

The next monthly event will be on December 12. The First Grade team and the PTA will be hosting Literacy Night.

Junipero Serra

Junipero Serra has been busy in these last few weeks. Our rummage garage sale was a cooperative effort between J. Serra staff and community. Our profit made all our hard work pay off. We have a wonderful staff that always goes one more inch and one of them is Aurora Garcia who led a group of 26 girls and boys who performed at the Bernal Heights Fiesta. The Folkloric dancing was not only entertaining, but also a wonderful way for the children to be proud of themselves and their culture.

The Parents-Conference was a great success. Parents-Teacher conferences are an ideal time to focus on goals to increase students' achievement and positive attitude. Also, they help us to focus in specific point in our after school program that will support students who need extra help.

Why I like Leonard Flynn

By Alexandria Cooksey, grade 4

The fact that I love my school is because the teachers are helpful. They can help you with any problem. I like the fact that my school has Peacemakers. The Peacemakers try to make our school peaceful - they help pupils that have problems. We also have a lot of after school programs. I am in one of them. I am in a soccer and poetry program. My teammates are awesome and we all help each other. We also have Soul Shoppe where we learn about respect, communicate with kindness, and responsibility. Our principal is fantastic! She helps everyone in need. The teachers are so great here! They teach different things about everything. That's why I am so happy to learn and be at Leonard R. Flynn.

Give Us Your Water Bottles!

Leonard Flynn Elementary School needs your old and unused five-gallon water bottles (Arrowhead, etc.) for their percussion band. Please drop the bottles off at the school office at 3125 Cesar Chavez, at Harrison Street.

Thinking of Enrolling Your Child in a San Francisco Public School?

Here is a step-by-step guide to help you understand the enrollment process and find the right school for your child.

1.Become Familiar with Key Enrollment Facts

You must fill out an enrollment application if (a) your child will be entering elementary school (kindergarten), middle school (6th grade), or high school (9th grade) next year; (b) your child is not in a transitional grade, but wants to transfer to a different school; (c) your child will be enrolling in an SFUSD school after attending a non-SFUSD school.

You may request any school in the district and can list up to five schools on your enrollment application.

2.Plan Ahead to Register "On-time"

Registering "on-time" gives you a major advantage. Registering "on-time" means that you return your enrollment application by the last day of the first enrollment period, January 31, 2003 to have the best chance of receiving an assignment to a Round 1 requested school. All applications received by January 31, 2003 will be processed together. Take time to find out about and visit schools before you submit your enrollment applications. If you submit an application by January 31, 2003, you will receive assignment information in mid-March 2003.

A few types of enrollment applications have an earlier due date of December 20, 2002. These applications include:

- 9th Grade Applicants to Lowell High School
- Pre-Assignments, including siblings (check www.sfusd.edu for more information)

3.Research All Your Available School Options

San Francisco Unified School District offers a wide variety of high-quality school programs. Every school is responsible for teaching our children to the same high academic standards, and each school also has unique features and services. Explore your school options to find out which schools will best meet your child's needs. Find out for yourself. Let facts and your observations guide the schools you request.

Visit Schools

You are encouraged to visit the schools you are considering for your child. It's a great way to meet staff, find out about services, and get a feel for the environment of the school. All schools welcome visitors, including our local Bernal Heights elementary schools: Leonard R. Flynn (695-5770), Paul Revere (695-5656), Junipero Serra (695-5685).

Visit the Educational Placement Center (EPC) located at 555 Franklin Street, San Francisco, or district website at www.sfusd.edu.

Contact Parent Relations and Organizations

Talk with members of parent organizations such as Parents for Public Schools (PPS), (415) 468-7077, and the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), (415) 241-6048 to learn more about SFUSD schools and connect with current SFUSD parents. Call the SFUSD Office of Parent Relations Office, (415) 241-6185 to get additional information about district resources for parents.

4. Obtain and Complete an Enrollment Application

Enrollment Applications are available at all SFUSD schools and at the Educational Placement Center. You may also print out an application at www.sfusd.edu.

5. Return Your Enrollment Application

Make sure that you return your enrollment application on-time to the correct location.

If your child is entering an SFUSD school for the first time or you are transferring your child from one school to another in a non-transitional grade, return your enrollment application to the Educational Placement Center, (415) 241-6085.

If your child is in a transitional grade (5th or 8th) in an SFUSD school, return your enrollment application to your child's current school.

What's New at the Bernal Heights Library?

By Lisa Dunseth

Lots of groups meet at the Bernal Branch. The Writer's Support Group has developed into a regular twice a month event. A new Dream Interpretation Group has organized. Our middle school book club is getting off the ground. While the longstanding Chess, Spanish Conversation and Book Club folks continue to meet as they have for years.

Staff had fun giving away over 50 bags of books and 100 fortune cookies at the Fiesta (and managed to fit in a spontaneous string figure workshop for interested kids as well.)

We celebrated Halloween by giving away spooky popcorn hands. Also in October, we hosted the inimitable theater group Word For Word as well as local comic strip artist Keith Knight.

The lively Origami Club celebrated it 10th anniversary at their November meeting. They also donated four folding tables to the library to accommodate our need for table space.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We are looking for a Bernal representative for the Council of Neighborhood Libraries. Contact Lisa Dunseth at **695-5160** if interested. We also need someone with a strong back to sort, pick up and deliver donations to the Friends & Foundation at Fort Mason. Contact Patricia Coyle at **557-4256** if interested.

WHAT HAVE THE STAFF BEEN READING?

Adrian:
Despite ABC's censoring cancellation of "Politically Incorrect" and Maher'slast-hour capitulations, I am reading Bill Maher's new book **WHEN YOU RIDE ALONE YOU RIDE WITH BIN LADEN: WHAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE TELLING US TO HELP FIGHT THE WAR ON TERRORISM**. Also reading **LULLABY** by **FIGHT CLUB** author Chuck Palahniuk.

Carol:
BABY SHOWER BOOK: ETIQUETTE, DECORATIONS, GAMES, FOOD
by Pauline Glendenning
Has everything one needs to know to prepare a fun celebration.

Lisa:
HOLE IN MY LIFE by Jack Gantos.
This popular and respected children's author has his year in prison to thank for his writing career. A compelling story in which "words fill the hole" in his life, it's not a totally bleak story because his smart sense of humor shines through.
SMALL WONDER by Barbara Kingsolver
Kingsolver's nonfiction is her best-kept secret. These essays are her response to 9/11 and eloquently portray her passionate hope for a better world.

Skye:
SARAH by J.T. LeRoy
Sixteen-year-old LeRoy wrote this semi-autobiographical story of a female sex worker in a West Virginia truck stop brothel. He currently lives locally and writes for the magazine 7 by 7.

THE HEART IS DECEITFUL ABOVE ALL THINGS by J.T. LeRoy.
Short stories detail more of his incredible but very checkered life.

Sylvie:
HOTEL WORLD by Ali Smith
Set in present-day England, this beautifully and succinctly written story unfolds in various voices: a young woman who died in an accident, a homeless woman and a fashionable journalist.

THE WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO RABBITS by Emma Donoghue.
Short stories set in the England of the 13th to 19th centuries ✪

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Bernal Votes for Affordable Housing

Analysis by Ron Morgan

The November 5th election results won't be certified until well after press time, but the unofficial results indicate that nearly 55% of Bernal's registered voters went to the polls and that those who voted overwhelmingly supported affordable housing. Bernal voters approved Proposition B, the Affordable Housing Bond, with 68% of the vote. This compares with a little under 50% voter turnout citywide, and 56% in favor of Prop B.

The relatively overwhelming support for Prop B in Bernal Heights can easily be interpreted as a mandate for the planning and development of affordable housing.

Some have tried to spin the failure of Prop B. to garner two-thirds of the City wide vote as a repudiation of affordable housing in general, and of non-profit development in particular. It's difficult to understand how getting 56% of the vote qualifies as repudiation (the total for Prop N, Care Not Cash, generally perceived as a landslide, was only four more percentage points higher).

Bernal Height's support of affordable housing was not rendered meaningless by Prop B's defeat. The need for affordable housing is as high as it was before the election. The battle for funding for affordable housing now moves to City Hall and the chambers of the Board of Supervisors. The Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, as an integral part of the community and as developers of affordable housing, looks forward to the continued support of Bernal Heights for our Mission. ✪

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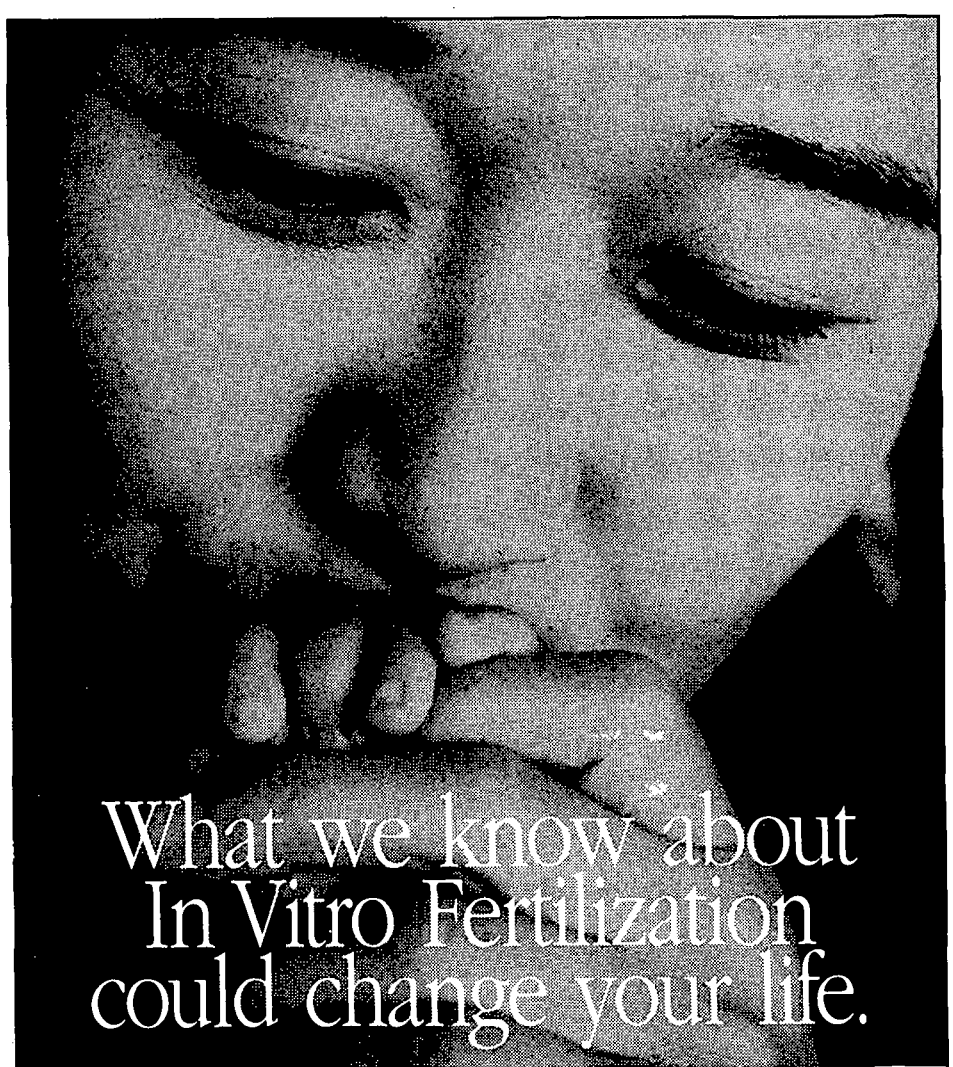

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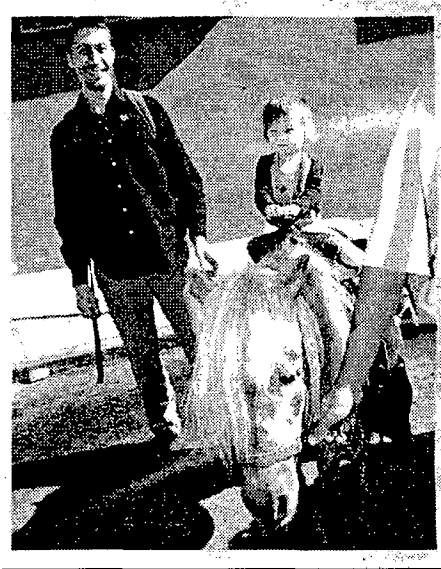

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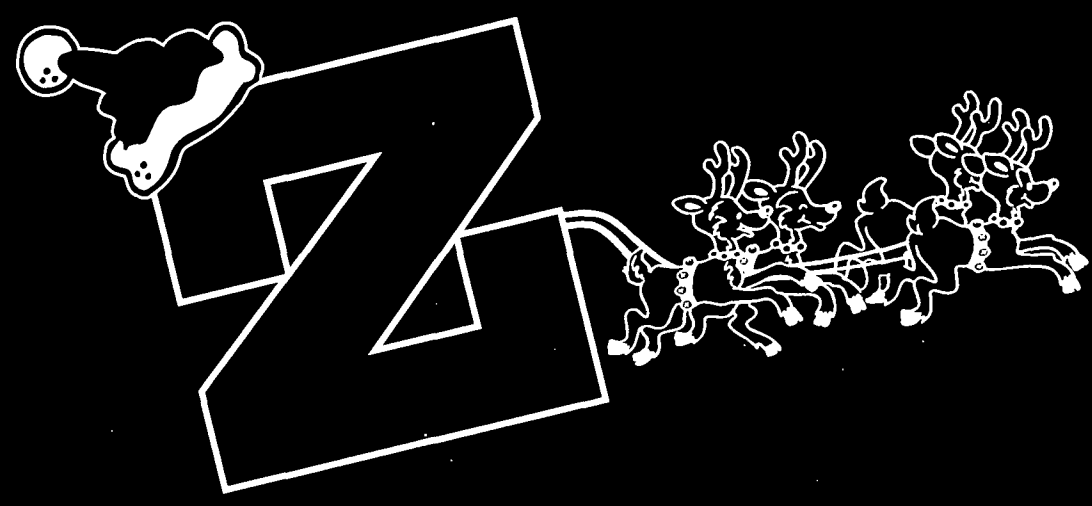

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- *Santa and Rudolf the Reindeer will be stopping by our 24th Street office with candy canes for the kids Saturday, December 14th from 11 am – 1 pm.*
- *And don't forget our Annual Toy Barrel. Please bring new unwrapped toys for the Child Abuse Council and Toys for Tots—Thanksgiving to Christmas.*
- *Also this year, please bring non-perishable food items for the San Francisco Food Bank.*

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Holly Park Renovation Update

By Eugenie Marek

The SF Park and Recreation capital project scheduled for Holly Park continues in the planning stages, with ground-breaking expected next spring. Friends of Holly Park has been following the progress of this project for our community. Recent telephone interviews with Judy Mosqueda, acting project manager, and John Thomas, landscape architect, revealed the following details:

Some access walkways were reconfigured to lessen the grade from 8% to 5%, but designed to prevent the need for more walls and handrails - which would have impacted financially. Landscaping will offset the walkways. This new plan is currently being submitted for ADA compliance approval. It's likely that in January the project will be put out to bid. Ground breaking will occur in late April.

The renovations will require that areas of Holly Park be closed to the public. The whole park won't be disrupted, but rather pieces of work will be done over about 6 months. For example, there will not be a playground structure for several months. Most essential work will be completed before any significant rains in the fall. Landscaping and reforestation details are decided later in the planning process.

Part of this renovation includes an art project, under the auspices of the SF Arts Council, members of our community will be asked to take part in the selection of the artist(s) and the art project. An example of such a project is the memorial bench recently placed in Precita Park.

Pedestrian safety on Holly Park Circle is also important, although separate from the capital renovation. Currently there are minimal markings and few stop signs on the Circle, despite the presence of Junipero Serra Elementary School and Child Development Center. Nick Carr, representative of the SF Department of Traffic, confirmed that funding looks ok for the school-related crossings. But, as of now, there is no funding source for the pedestrian crossing areas that were recommended as first priority projects.

Further updates will continue in the New Bernal Journal. If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Judy Mosqueda, project manager, at **558-4039**, or Friends of Holly Park at **826-0236**. This spring expect a Ground Breaking Party in Holly Park! Details will be available closer to the April event. ✪

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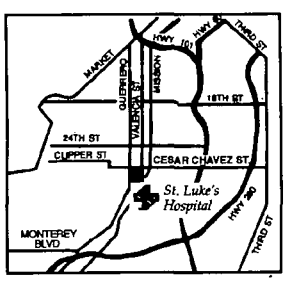

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Music on the Hill Brings World Class Music to Bernal

By Amy Huson

Bernal Heights' very own concert series, "Music on the Hill" opened its 2002-2003 season with great success. On Sunday October 6, patrons of the concert series converged at the home of board member Carol Bee for an evening of fine wine, hors d'oeuvres and a remarkable benefit concert featuring famed cellist Joan Jeanrenaud. Performing original compositions, Alter Piece (2001) and Vermont Rules (2002) plus a piece by Egyptian composer Hamza El Din, Joan mixed acoustic cello with electronic looping to produce celestial woven layers of sound.

On Sunday Nov. 3rd Music on the Hill's fans packed St. Kevin's Church for the first public concert of the season featuring the Harmida Piano Trio. Performing music by Mozart, Lou Harrison and Brahms the members of this prestigious ensemble hypnotized the audience with their skill and charisma. With apparent ease the trio captured the elegance of Mozart's style, the power and passion of Brahms, and the charm of Lou Harrison. As if joined at the hip, the Trio played with a heightened sense of ensemble found only with musicians that care deeply for the craft of chamber music and for each other.

The next concert of the season should prove to be equally thrilling. On Sunday February 2nd 2003 at 7:30 P.M., String Circle, a string quartet, will perform a concert of "Ecstatic Music". Joe Edelberg, concert master of the Santa Rosa Symphony and member of the S.F. Opera Orchestra join violinist Kati Kyme, cellist Tania Thompkins and violist Anthony Martin. The performance includes "Fantasies" by Purcell, "Fratres" by 20th century Estonian composer Arvo Part, and Beethoven's String Quartet op. 131 in C# minor.

All concerts are held at St. Kevin's Church 704 Cortland Ave. at Ellsworth. Tickets are $10 general and $6 for students & seniors. To reserve tickets and for more information regarding Music on the Hill check out our new Website at **http//MusicontheHill.org**, call us at **820-1429**, or e-mail us at **mothmuse@aol.com**. Music on the Hill is a non-profit community supported concert series. Special thanks to Kristin Hofso and Bernal Realty for honoring us for the 2nd time with their generous "Bernal Hill Award", and the Ross McKee foundation for sponsoring the Nov. 3rd 2002 Harmida Piano Trio concert. ✪

Holiday Safety Tips

By Captain Kevin Dillon, Ingleside Police Station

Holiday greetings from Ingleside Police Station. I can't think of a more important message at this time of year than safety for you and your family. There are a number of things that you can do to make this a safer Holiday Season. There is a lot more darkness at this time of year and the dark is cover for bad people who would ruin your holidays, if given the chance. When you are out at night you must be aware of your surroundings. Know where you are and when walking, be aware of other people on the street. A cell phone is the one tool that can help you if you find yourself in trouble. (**remember that cell phone "911" is 553-8090 in SF**) I recommend cell phones for everyone who can afford one.

Only carry the credit cards and cash that you need. The smaller amounts are so much easier to replace if lost or stolen.

People tend to party more during the holidays. Everyone knows not to drive while drinking. But even if you are walking while semi-intoxicated, you make yourself more vulnerable to those who would like to relieve you of your valuables. When you have been drinking you are less aware of your surroundings and cannot easily escape from an attack. Use common sense and travel with a friend when walking the streets.

When shopping for Christmas you must conceal your items in the trunk or other area not visible from outside the car. There are people who hang out in mall lots that watch you put items in your trunk and then walk away. While you are back in the stores shopping they will force your trunk open and remove the items you thought were safely secured. You must move your car to a different location or floor of a parking garage whenever you put additional items in the trunk. Then if someone is watching they will only see you pull up and park your car. Be alert and use common sense and you can avoid being a victim most of the time. Happy Holidays! ✪

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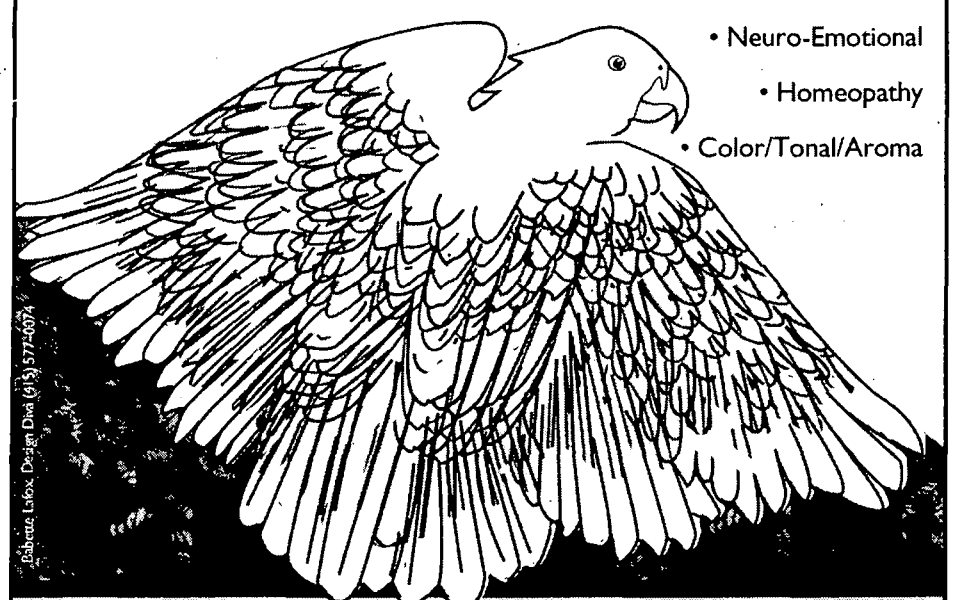

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Senior Page

The 2nd Annual Senior "Wish Tree"

Make A Bernal Heights Senior's Holiday Special

Last year, was a smashing success with 115 seniors receiving gifts from members of our community. Each star on the tree represents a personal gift wish from an individual senior. We ask you again to participate in this unique holiday activity by picking a senior star and fulfilling their holiday gift wish.

How to Participate:

Step 1: Wednesday, December 4th through Friday December the 13th. Come to the lobby of the BHNC at 515 Cortland and sign out a Senior Star from our Senior Wish tree. The star will tell you your Senior's holiday gift wish. Purchase and wrap your senior's gift. Label it with the star tag.

Step 2: Monday, December the 16th - Attach your selected "Senior Star" to the top of the gift and deliver it to the BHNC Senior Department between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Active Seniors will receive their star gifts on Friday, December 20th at the senior holiday luncheon. The homebound seniors will have their senior star gifts and a hot holiday meal delivered on December 23rd and 24th by our holiday volunteer elves.

Sunday, December 8th from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Gifts on the Hill Christmas Party! Join us for Cookies, Cider and Carols. You can pick also star from the Senior Wish Tree in the BHNC lobby.

Gifts On The Hill

Gifts on the Hill would like to thank everyone for their generous donations. We would also like to thank our customers for their generous purchases. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season. May 2003 bring you peace, joy and prosperity. We look forward to our continued relationship with all of you.

Calling all Holiday Volunteers!

We have many wonderful projects planned for our seniors in the month of December. We need people to lead an activity, teach a class, play an instrument, wrap gifts, make cookies, set up the senior wish tree, make home deliveries, sing Christmas carols, etc. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 206-2140 x132 to sign up.

We are having a Christmas raffle for a beautiful handcrafted doll with a suggested retail value of $300. "Rosie" will be on display with information of her history. Price per raffle ticket is $1. The drawing will be held on December 21, 2002. You do not have to be present to win.

We will be conducting our annual customer survey; look for it in early January, 2003. Please let us know what you would like us to stock in the store.

We are now accepting donations. Please stop by for a list of acceptable donations provided by Community Thrift. Please bring donations when the store is open. Thank you for your understanding.

Please join the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center family. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available, 7 days a week. What a wonderful way to give back to the community.

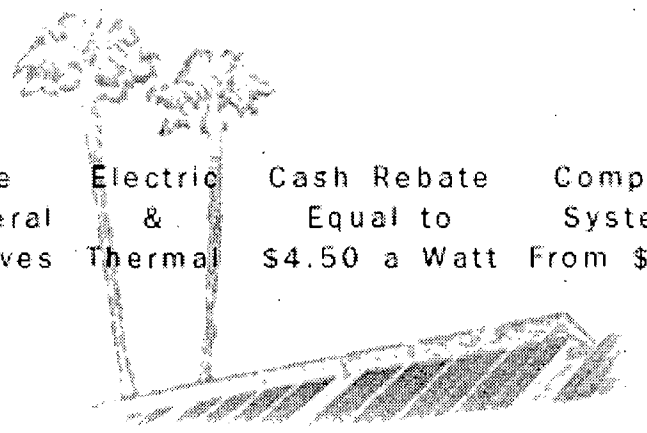
Holiday Volunteer Elves Needed for BHNC Senior Holiday Events

Christmas Caroling to Homebound Seniors: Wednesday, December 18th from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will walk and carol to a number of our homebound seniors as weather permits. Please contact Julia Korsunsky at **206-9175** to sign up for this wonderful holiday event.

Share Your Favorite Holiday Cookies with our seniors: Thursday, December 19th. Please bring 2 to 3 dozen of your favorite homemade cookies the BHNC for our seniors to enjoy at their annual holiday luncheon. We would love for you to include your recipe to share with others. Please call Roland Soriano to make arrangements and deliver cookies and recipes by Thursday, December 19th.

Holiday Food, Gift Wrapping and Deliveries: Monday, December 23 and Tuesday, 24th. This will be a busy time as we are preparing to deliver 50 hot holiday meals as well as gifts and other goodies to our homebound clients. We need between 6 and 10 volunteers to wrap and deliver these special parcels. Please call our Volunteer Coordinator at **206-2140 x132**.

DECLINATION SOLAR



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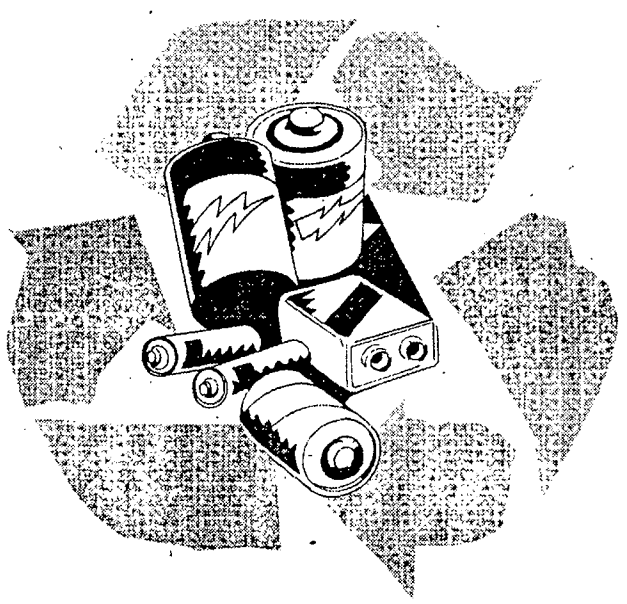

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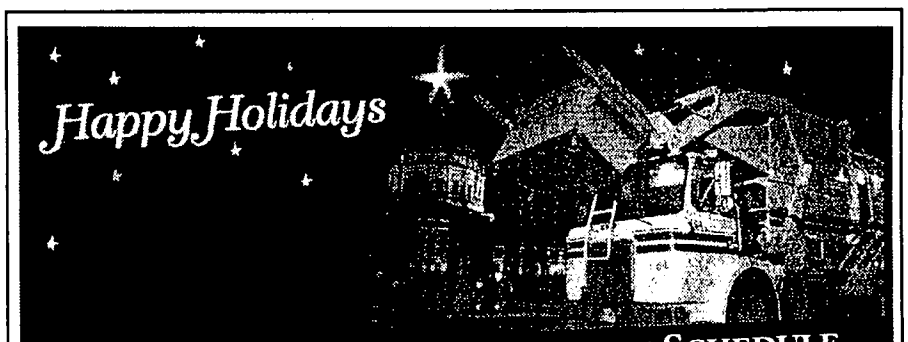
Happy Holidays



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

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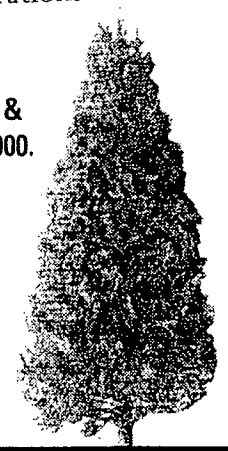

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Youth Services Page

OMCSN, Outer Mission Community Support Network

The Youth Department is proud to announce the creation of a new program, the "Outer Mission Community Support Network, (OMCSN). Through a generous grant from the Department of Justice, the BHNC has established the OMCSN to prevent children and youth ages 8-14 from engaging in violence, crime, and/or gang activity in Bernal Heights, Excelsior and the Outer Mission. Intensive case management will be central to the OMCSN model and will be provided by three core partner agencies: BHNC, Mission Neighborhood Centers, and the Mission YMCA. The three core agencies will receive outreach and direct support from a wider network of community based agencies and public health departments.

The OMCSN is unique in its effort because it utilizes a community based, case management strategy. Young high-risk children usually receive services through the mental health system at the intervention stage when families and schools feel as though all other resources have been exhausted. The OMCSN offers culturally sensitive case managers who are trained in proper methods of intake, assessment, and referral and it offers resources for youth who do not need to be in the mental health system. Our goal is to target high-risk youth early on and to help them create avenues to success before they take steps down an even more destructive path later on in life. If you have any questions, please call: Lauren Bell, Youth Services Director at **206-2140x.169** or you can call Julie Orellana, Case Manager at **334-9919 x.106.** ✪

BHNC's Second Annual Youth Job Fair a Hit!

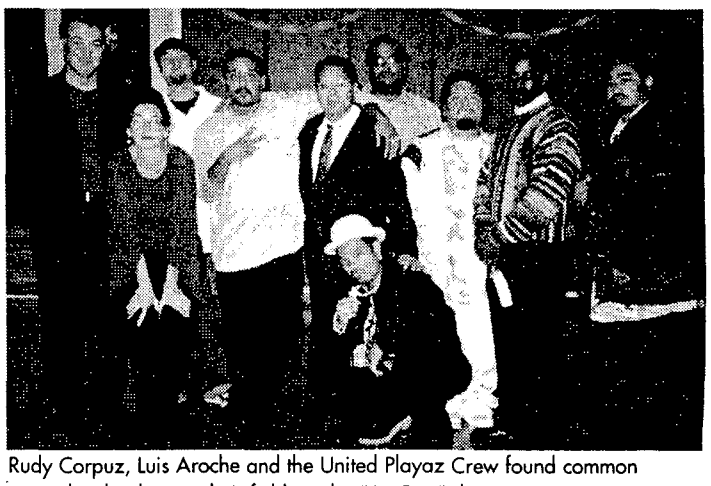
By Lauren Bell

Twenty employers and over 150 motivated youth ages 14-24 attended the Job Fair on Thursday, November 14, 2002. The atmosphere was both productive and festive with youth completing applications on the spot and everyone enjoying the barbeque prepared by the United Playaz. Raffles were held every half hour to reward youth for their efforts. Employer surveys indicated their extreme satisfaction with the event and with the professionalism of the youth who attend.

The BHNC values the Job Fairs because they create an arena for the community to interact with the business world in a very fun and professional way. The Job Fair success is a strong indicator that our youth are striving to stay productive and on a positive path! Thanks to the employers for opening their doors to our young professionals. Thanks especially to Keith Anderson, BHNC Job Developer for coordinating a sensational event.

United Playaz and Excelsior Youth Center Host "As One" Community Dinner

Motivated youth, and committed service providers were interwoven during an evening that celebrated the hard work of some of San Francisco's greatest community based organizations and city departments. Rudy Corpuz, Luis Aroche and Tamal Flemming spent several months strategizing on the details of the dinner. They chose to organize a classy, but informal event that wasn't focused around agendas or speakers. Instead they created an atmosphere conducive to simple conversation between people who happened to choose to do similar work. It gave people an opportunity to learn more about each other, than what their colleague "does professionally." The hosts and youth spent time to make sure that the food was cooked to perfection, that the apple cider for the toast was appropriately chilled and that people understood that they were coming to be deeply respected. By all accounts it was high quality evening. Thanks to Rudy, Luis, Tamal and the young people for coordinating a special evening. ✪



Rudy Corpuz, Luis Aroche and the United Playaz Crew found common ground with others in their fields at the "As One" dinner.

TOY GIVEAWAY
For Kids 5-14
December 18, 3-6pm
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Give a Gift to Your Community for the Holidays

By Adam Kinsey

The end of the year is a time for evaluation. Whether we're a family, a business, a single person or a nonprofit neighborhood center, this is a time to go inside, see how we've done in the past year and make plans for the next.

When you're thinking about your life this past year, we hope you take a moment to think about your community, where you live...and the neighborhood center that serves this place.

We believe that service is an important part of making community. That's why, three hundred and sixty-five days a year, the staff and volunteers of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center serve the area's seniors with hot meals, in-home assistance and recreational programs, give a hand to our youth with jobs programs and violence prevention work, and provide affordable housing for those without it and assistance rehabilitating homes to those who have them but can't afford keeping them up. We put out the New Bernal Journal you hold in your hands. The BHNC works with the neighbors, merchants and other local organizations to make our public schools better, our local economy more vibrant and our streets safer, all while creating a future that is happier, healthier and more beautiful for all.

While you're evaluating this last year, what went wrong and what went right, it's a good time to envision what you want for this coming year as well-for yourself, your family, your community. And if you see the BHNC in that, help make that vision of your future happen. If you aren't yet a member of the BHNC, take a few minutes to fill out the form below, and become one. Our numbers make us strong. And if you're already a member, think about making a year-end gift to the Center. We make a little go a long way-all the way to 2004! Also, look over the sidebar next to the membership form below for other ways to help the BHNC out, all year long.

Thank you for your support. Have joyous holidays and a great 2003!

Yes! I want to help the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center continue to serve my community.

- ❑ $15-49 Regular Membership
- ❑ $50-99 Supporting Membership
- ❑ $100-249 Neighborhood Center Friend
- ❑ $250 Neighborhood Center Advocate
- ❑ $500 Neighborhood Center Sustainer
- ❑ $1000 Neighborhood Center Sponsor
- ❑ $1.00 Youth Membership (under 18)
- ❑ $5.00 Seniors/Low-income Membership
- ❑ $_____ Other

I am paying by: ❑ check ❑ credit card

Visa MC #_____

Exp. Date _____/_____

Name

Address

City State Zip

Telephone-day Telephone-evening

E-mail

My employer has a matching gift program.
A corporate matching form is enclosed.

Name of employer

- ❑ I am interested in learning about volunteer opportunities.
- ❑ I am interested in learning about Planned Giving opportunities.
- ❑ I have remembered the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in my will.

Other Ways You Can Help!

- Make a United Way Donor Choice gift. Just fill in BHNC's code #928683 on the United Way pledge form.
- For federal workers, the Combined Federal Campaign is the program through which you designate your United Way gift.
- Multiply your gift with a matching contribution from your employer.
- Donate used items to our thrift store, Gifts on the Hill, 513 Cortland Ave., San Francisco, CA 94110
- Donate resale items to Community Thrift Store, Valencia between 17th and 18th Streets, and designate BHNC (acct# 243) as the beneficiary.
- When you shop at Cole Hardware, Mission and 29th Street, tell them you want BHNC (acct# 515) to get 10% from your purchase.
- Consider including the BHNC in your estate planning. Call (415) 206-2140, ex. 161 to discuss how.

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All Things Macintosh: Internet making you crazy? Trouble shooter for hire! Solve mysterious freezes. Improve performance, Software Support, Tutoring. Reference. . Roslyn (510) 526-1209.

Spanish Lessons All levels. Conversation with grammatical base. Designed for people interested also in the cultural principles related to the language and its origins. Classes are individual or small groups tailored to your own interest and needs too. School located in Bernal Heights. Agora Language Resources (415) 248-1881

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Piano lessons. All styles Veteran of SF Mime Troupe, Pickle Family Circus and Teatro Zinzanni. With patience and humor, call Randy Craig (415) 334-2451

Competent Maintenance: David is back for the summer and looking forward to all your repairs, replace, fixup, painting, minor elect and plumbing needs. Call 647-2869

Bodywork and Movement Analysis Claudia Singer CMT, CLMA, SHPE. Rehabilitate from injury, improve alignment, release excess tension, improve athletic performance through movement and hands-on work. Call 415-820-1410.

Want to pass the TOEFL test? INTRAX offers intensive TOEFL classes. Call us for more info at 415-835-9766

Less Homework for Parents: see www.mystudybuddy.org call Jane (415) 586-4577.

Need an Extra Pair of Hands? Contact the SF Day Labor Program" Non-Profit Day Labor Program provides individuals and businesses with workers for moving, painting, construction, cleaning, catering, and more. Specializing in short jobs, $12-15/hr. Call 7am-1pm Mon-Fri or 7am-12 noon Sat to hire one or many workers. (415) 252-5375 or 5376. www.sfdaylabor.org

Swedish and Deep Tissue Therapeutic Massage: Relax and Rejuvenate! Housecalls only $60. Call Jamine @ (415) 305-7250

Need a tutor? Stanford Graduate provides tutoring services for Middle and High School Students. www.bayarea.tutor.org or call (415) 990-1322

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Person needed for research internet work on an as-needed basis. Please call Sally at 673-7213.

Feeling tense? HOT HANDS around your shoulders will help you relax. Glovel-ly microwaveable hotpack, created by Bernal designer makes a great gift too. $25. Seen at Fiesta 2002. 826-8248

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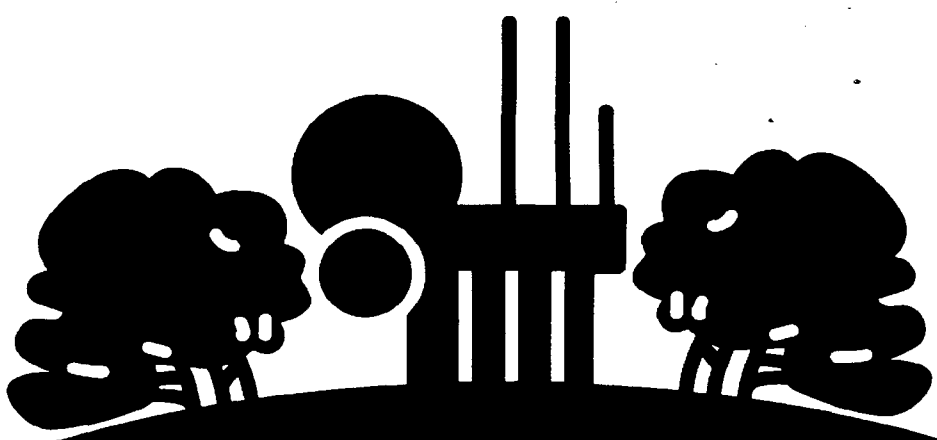

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301	Deli Pub	285-1631
303	Brown Bear Realty	285-5700
303	Hilltop Financial	285-2331
307	L.P. Decorative Plumbing	641-7928
337	Cortland 1 Hour Cleaners	282-3700
397	Angel Wash	550-0293
399	Blumengarten Flowers	641-8302
401	Bernal Books	550-0293
417	Valentina's Restaurant	786-0587
433	Bank of America	650-615-4700
439	Video Oasis	648-3569
453	Skip's Tavern	282-3456
461	Bernal Yoga	(# coming)
507	Bernal Beast	643-7800
513	Gifts on the Hill	206-2140
515	Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center	206-2140
521	Salon-Last Resort	285-4599
525	Hunan Chef Restaurant	648-3636
605	Unlimited Hair Care	648-6626
631	Antiques	550-9188
629	Bell's Cleaners & Laundry	285-3239
701	Kim Malcheski- Attorney at Law	647-2797
707	Bernal Heights Law Office	626-6900
733	Xochimilco Flowers & Gifts	642-9172
737	Dorita's Nicaraguan & Mex. Food	821-0701
745	Martha & Bros. Coffee	642-7585
801	Pay Little Market	401-9931
803	Palatino Restaurant	641-8899
815	Herbology Bodywork Acu.	
919	Pizza Express Restaurant	282-2333
925	Little Nepal Rest. (Coming Soon)	
1601	A.R.C., A. Ruiz Construction	647-4010

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South Side of Cortland

Street #	Business	Phone #
300	Emerald Grove	550-0449
322	Bernal Boxes & Fax This	970-2269
328	Tom's on Cortland	643-9269
400	Progressive Grounds Coffee	282-6233
400A	Angelic Travel & Tours	282-6080
412	Star Videos	641-5280
408	Cottage Bakery	695-8777
410	The Liberty Cafe	695-8777
424	The Wild Side West	547-3099
430A	Bernal Heights Nail Care	401-9096
432	Toni's Trade Winds	
436	Heartfelt	648-1380
448	The Good Life Grocery	648-3221
500	S.F. Library, Bernal Branch	695-5160
600	J.C.'s Wash & Dry	282-5912
626	Cortland Nail Salon	550-8188
634	Moonlight Cafe	647-6448
704	St. Kevin's Church	648-5751
800	Bernal Heights Produce	282-7308
810	Mission Pentecostal Emanuel	333-8135
820	JC Super Market	648-4656
830	Moki's Sushi & Pacific Grill	970-9336
900	A.G. Mfg. Wood Windows & Doors	826-7515
902	Edward's Hardware	206-1086
1000	The Cutting Edge	970-3343
1600	American Canvas & Awning Co.	826-7515

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